

XXII.—*On a small Collection of Birds made in Socotra by E. N. Bennett, M.A., Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford.*
By H. B. TRISTRAM.

MY friend Mr. Bennett has kindly sent me the birds collected by him in Socotra, in which island he travelled, in company with the late Mr. Theodore Bent and Mrs. Bent, from Dec. 1896 to Feb. 1897. Though the collection contains no new species, yet there are several which have not hitherto been reported from that island, and which may help to throw light on the question of lines of migration. As Mr. Bennett disclaims being an ornithologist—though I know that from boyhood he has done good field-work, and that to him I am indebted for interesting information respecting *Ægialitis sanctæ-helenæ*, which he knows on its native mountain-top—he did not make any special notes on the birds, the expedition being for other objects, but simply secured such as he came across.

I have not been able to find any contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of Socotra subsequent to those of Professor Bayley Balfour after his visit in 1880, and of Dr. Emil Riebeck in the following year, and Mr. Bennett has added no new Passeres to their list. The following are the species obtained by him. The letters B. and R. after each species signify obtained by Balfour and Riebeck respectively.

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| 1. <i>Zosterops abyssinica</i> Heugl.
B., R. | 10. <i>Querquedula crecca</i> (L.). B. |
| 2. <i>Saxicola montana</i> Gld. B. | 11. <i>Chaulelasmus streperus</i> (L.). |
| 3. <i>Amydrus blythi</i> ScL. B., R. | 12. <i>Phœnicopterus roseus</i> Pall. |
| 4. — <i>frater</i> ScL. & Hartl. B.,
R. | 13. <i>Treron waalia</i> (Gm.). B., R. |
| 5. <i>Lanius uncinatus</i> ScL. & Hartl.
B., R. | 14. <i>Turtur senegalensis</i> (L.). B.,
R. |
| 6. <i>Passer insularis</i> ScL. & Hartl.
B. | 15. <i>Coturnix communis</i> Bonn. B. |
| 7. <i>Ardea</i> , sp.? Skin not pre-
served. <i>A. purpurea</i> was
obtained by Riebeck and
<i>A. gularis</i> by Balfour. | 16. <i>Strepsilas interpretis</i> (L.). |
| 8. <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (L.).
B. | 17. <i>Tringoides hypoleucus</i> (L.). B.,
R. |
| 9. <i>Anas boschas</i> L. | 18. <i>Totanus glareola</i> (Gm.). R. |
| | 19. — <i>canescens</i> (Gm.). B. |
| | 20. <i>Calidris arenaria</i> (L.). |
| | 21. <i>Gallinago caelestis</i> (Frenz.). B. |
| | 22. <i>Porzana maruetta</i> (Leach). |
| | 23. <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (L.). R. |

Mr. Bennett has thus added six species to the Socotran list, viz.: *Anas boscas*, *Ch. streperus*, *Ph. roseus*, *Str. interpres*, *C. arenaria*, and *P. maruetta*, all of which, with the exception of the Flamingo, can be no more than winter visitants. The list would lead us to infer that the line of southward migration, of which the Red-Sea coasts are undoubtedly the arterial route, trends from the Straits of Babelmandeb westward along the East-African shores, then eastward by the southern coast of Arabia.

When we observe that, of the whole number of 26 species of terrestrial birds represented in the three collections, as many as seven are peculiar, so far as is known, to the island, and that two of them belong to a very remarkable genus, *Rhynchostruthus*, we may fairly infer that rich results will yet follow a more thorough exploration of the whole island. The occurrence of *Saxicola montana*, the only West-Asiatic form in the lists, is evidently not accidental, as it was obtained both by Prof. Balfour and Mr. Bennett.

XXIII.—*On the Avifauna of Franz Josef Land.* By WM. EAGLE CLARKE, F.L.S. *With Notes by WM. S. BRUCE*, of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition.

ON his return from a year's residence in Franz Josef Land, my friend Mr. Bruce kindly placed the birds collected by him in my hands for examination and record. Hence this contribution. I am glad to be able to include Mr. Bruce's useful and interesting Notes on the Land and its Birds. These appear in brackets with Mr. Bruce's initials.

It has been thought desirable to include in this contribution the names of *all* the species of birds which have been observed, or supposed to have been observed, in Franz Josef Land by the few explorers who have visited this, the most northern of archipelagos, and thus to make it a complete record of our present knowledge of its avifauna.

Certain species in the records, the occurrence of which in Franz Josef Land I consider to be extremely doubtful, are